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Woodbine school expansion adds federal money to funding mix

By MICHAEL MILLER Staff Writer, (609) 463-6712, [E-Mail](#)

WOODBINE - A plan to expand the elementary school inched closer to reality Friday as federal lawmakers pledged \$250,000 more for the project.

U.S. Sen. Jon Corzine, D-N.J., announced the school would get \$250,000 from federal coffers to build a new gymnasium and a new library that would double as a branch of the Cape May County library system.

Corzine said communities should make better use of their schools after school hours.

"They're not just 8-4 vehicles. They give us the facilities to improve not just our children's lives but our community," he said.

Corzine worked with U.S. Rep. Frank LoBiondo, R-2nd, on the grant. This borough has secured \$3.2 million from federal, state and county sources for the project so far.

"Sometimes it's labeled pork," Corzine said. But he said it was money well spent.

The Cape May County Library Commission took over the Wildwood Crest branch last year. Commission Director Andrew Martin said he was looking forward to opening a new branch in Woodbine next year.

"I've been saying for years that Woodbine is growing. This is a place where you'll see more expansion and revitalization," he said.

Michael McHale, who works in the K-8 school, said the district would make good use of both projects.

"Our library is well below what it should be. Our students love reading, but we don't have the books for them to absorb," he said.

Likewise, this borough has a need for a public library, he said.

"We have a thirst for reading just like every other community," he said.

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